ORIGIN/ACTION

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO: ADEN, AMMAN, ANKARA, BAGHDAD, BEIRUT, BONN FOR CINCUSAFE, CAIRO, DAMASCUS DHAHRAN, FRANKFURT FOR LINDSEY AIR STATION, ATTN: DSC INTELLIGENCE, IDCA, HEADQUARTERS USAREUR HEIDELBERG, KARACHI, KHARTOUM, KUWAIT, LONDON, RABAT MOGADISCIO, TAIZ, TEHRAN, TEL AVIV, TRIPOLI, TUNIS, POLAD CINCSTRIKE/ CINCMEAFSA, COMIDEASTFOR, DIA, CHUSMTM

FROM : Amembassy JIDDA

DATE: October 13, 1966

SUBJECT: Monthly Review for Saudi Arabia - September, 1966

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SUMMARY

RELEVANT

In the military area, the Saudis announced the signing of the Saudi-US Mobility Modernization Agreement on September 10; the first battery of Hawk missiles is now en route to Saudi Arabia and a group of National Guard enlisted men left for training in the US.

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IRRELEVANT

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IRRELEVANT

II. MILITARY

A. National Guard

Twenty-two enlisted men from the Saudi National Guard were selected and readied at the end of the month for departure to the US for eight weeks training in weapons and small unit tactics at various facilities in the US. Considerable effort had to be expended by the Embassy in assisting the Guard Headquarters in negotiating the myriad administrative hurdles connected with preparing the group for departure. (As Saudi policy is to minimize contact between the National Guard and the regular armed forces, the latter's experience in handling such trainees could not be drawn upon.) Apart from an arms purchase program, this will be the first significant US contact with National Guard personnel.

1(a)(2)

B. Hawk Missiles

The first battery of Hawk missiles ordered as part of the Air Defense Agreement was shipped from the US for Saudi Arabia in order to meet the USG commitment to arrive by the end of October. Through an exchange of letters between Secretary McNamara and Prince Sultan, general principles were agreed upon for protection of the classified elements of the Hawks. Detailed security arrangements remain to be negotiated.

C. Mobility Modernization

The Saudi Arabian Government announced on September 10 the signing of the Mobility Modernization Agreement with the USG.

The SAG announcement stimulated intensive questions of the Department's Press Officer, particularly to determine whether the program includes tanks or armored cars. (The purchase includes some armored personnel carriers, but no tanks.) The announcement caused some outcry from the Cairo press, although it was not as severe as it might have been.